

be)(adonna*₃₄

Fall 2002



**A Swarm of Bees
In High Court**

by
Tonya Foster



deadly nightshade, a cardiac and respiratory stimulant, having purplish-red flowers and black berries

A Swarm Of Bees In High Court © Tony Foster 2002

Belladonna* pamphlet production and design, Bill Mazza: www.mazzastudio.com

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Belladonna* is a reading series that promotes the work of women writers who are adventurous, experimental, politically involved, multi-form, multi-cultural, multi-gendered, impossible to define, delicious to talk about, unpredictable, dangerous with language.

Rachel Levitsky, editor Belladonna* Books.

Belladonna Books, 458 Lincoln Place, #4B Brooklyn, NY 11238 • levitsk@attglobal.net
<http://www.durationpress.com/belladonna>

A Swarm Of Bees In High Court

by Tonya Foster

as always there is
the black robe, the platt-platt of
a robust gavel.

as always, there is
is/was. What will be is
just peripheral

this is how grief will
be forgotten—a few words
in long check-out lines.

this is how grief will
enter a body—malt liquor
drops into water

bodies of black men—
spent smoke, spent casings graph one
among many points

bodies of black men—
site specific installation—
America

steel comes in many
shapes and sizes, like bodies of
sound, of flesh, into

steel comes in many
forms: bridge, beam, resolve

bent, brown body, your
bobbing head anoints pavement.
Slight prayers like roaches.

bent, brown body, your
bend and bob under faint light
—articulate bullets.

bullets can cover
a page, train an eye—look! can
pepper a body

bullets can cover
a street, a door, the distance
between yours and mine

a bullet ain't got
no name, no neck, no notions
of right, time, or left

a bullet ain't got
no address, no love, no need
for satisfaction

a shoe will not grieve
the hand that held it, will not
want or want desire

a shoe will not grieve
your personal touch or its
shoeness when you're done

blind puddle that was
little boy's blood, cold water
and Mr. Clean clean

"Blind puddle that was
chance for movie chivalry"—
in this we forget

“I want to be like
Mike,” says we, “want to wear his
skilled skin on my feet”

“I want to be like
Mike,” say we, just as long as
I can take him off

tennis shoe pigeons
bounce, bend the cautious boughs, eat
wind with toothless mouths

tennis shoe pigeons
of our nature mark now by then,
know them by profiles

urban widows, do
you wear your mourning secrets
like tongues in closed mouths?

urban widows, do
wear your FUBU habits well.
mourning—routine bread

in the lit air above
and on broken concrete—un-
poetic pigeons

in the lit air above,
pigeons wheel and hover, a
form in flight, not flight

we understand light
within a form—the sand, or
water whipping it

we understand light
we say because of what we
say: “flash,” “blaze,” “blind”

be)(adonna* Catalog

Pamphlets are published in conjunction with the be)(adonna* reading series and are between 6 and 20 pages in length.

Books are \$3 each; \$5 signed editions; add 50¢ postage per item. Checks payable to Rachel Levitsky.

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4. Fanny Howe, parts from *Indivisible*
5. Eleni Sikelianos, from *The Book of Jon*
6. Laura Mullen, *Translation Series*
7. Beth Murray, *12 Horrors*
8. Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, *Audience*
9. Laura Wright, *Everything Automatic*

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13. Nicole Brossard, *Le Cou de Lee Miller/The Neck of Lee Miller*
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18. Cheryl Pallant, *Spontaneities*
19. Lynne Tillman, chapters from *Weird Fucks* and "Dead Talk"
20. Abigail Child, *Artificial Memory—vol 1 & vol 2* (\$6 set)

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22. Norma Cole, *BURNS*
23. Jocelyn Saidenberg, *Dusky*
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25. Carla Harryman, *DIMBLUE and Why Yell*
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27. kari edwards, *a diary of lies*
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29. Rosmarie Waldrop, *Trace Histories*
30. Tina Darragh, from *rule of dumbs*
31. Chris Tysh, *Mother, I (fragment of a film script)*
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33. Zhang Er, *Cross River . Pick Lotus*
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